

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An intra-vaginal self-administered cell collecting device comprising:
 - an intra-vaginal insertion member;
 - a shaped absorbent member removably mounted in the insertion member;
 - means for expelling the absorbent member from the insertion member;
 - ~~a textured porous means~~ flexible mesh covering the absorbent member for:
 - retaining the shape of the absorbent member;
 - capturing cells residing in vaginal fluids; and
 - passing the cells to the absorbent member; and
 - means for retrieving the absorbent member.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Currently Amended) The device as defined in claim 1 wherein the ~~textured cover~~ mesh is molded onto the absorbent member.
4. (Currently Amended) The device as defined in claim 1 wherein the ~~textured cover~~ mesh is a molded portion of the absorbent member.
5. (Currently Amended) The device as defined in claim 1 wherein the ~~textured cover~~ mesh is a ~~coating~~ sleeve applied to the absorbent member.

6. (Currently Amended) A kit for self-administered intra-vaginal cell collection comprising:

a container including:

an intra-vaginal insertion member;

a shaped absorbent member removably mounted in the insertion member;

means for expelling the absorbent member from the insertion member;

a textured porous means flexible mesh covering the absorbent member for:

retaining the shape of the absorbent member;

capturing cells residing in vaginal fluids; and

passing the cells to the absorbent member; and

means for retrieving the absorbent member.

7. (Currently Amended) The kit as defined in claim 21 further comprising:

a shipping package for shipping the container and ~~the~~ an enclosed form to a test facility.

8. (New) An intra-vaginal self-administered cell collecting device comprising:

an intra-vaginal insertion member;

a shaped absorbent member removably mounted in the insertion member;

means for expelling the absorbent member from the insertion member;

a mesh of open texture, with evenly spaced small holes, covering the absorbent member for:

retaining the shape of the absorbent member;

capturing cells residing in vaginal fluids; and

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passing the cells to the absorbent member; and
means for retrieving the absorbent member.